

Smithsonian gets a new treasure . . . one nickel

By Roger Boye

A WEALTHY Cleveland woman has given the Smithsonian Institution her 1913 Liberty nickel, one of five in existence.

Mrs. R. Henry Norweb bought the nickel, which once had been in the palace collection of King Farouk of Egypt, for \$3,750 in 1954. Last July, an unidentified entertainer paid \$200,000 for another of the five coins.

"From the moment we acquired the nickel, I knew that eventually it would be given to the Smithsonian . . . I thought that was the place for it," said Mrs. Norweb in *Coin World*. She started collecting coins in about 1905, and has since bought thousands of numismatic treasures, including many foreign coins.

The coin will be put on display Oct. 6 in the numismatic division of the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology in Washington. That same day, Smithsonian executives will honor Mrs. Norweb and her husband, a retired United States diplomat, at a banquet.

The donation completes a Smithsonian collection of 20th-Century U.S. coins, except for varieties such as overdates and mint errors.

THE WORLD'S most popular bullion gold coin, the South African Krugerrand, has been selling at a record pace, reports a spokesman for Inter-gold, marketing arm of the South African Chamber of Mines.

More than 3.4 million Krugerrands

were sold worldwide through August, compared with 3.3 million for all of 1977, or 4.8 million for all of 1975, the record sales year. About 20 million Krugerrands have been sold since their introduction to world markets in fall, 1970.

Meanwhile, Canada, the world's third largest gold producer behind South Africa and the Soviet Union, is considering a bullion gold coin. A government committee is conducting a study, and if production is approved, the Royal Canadian Mint could be selling a coin by the fall of 1979.

No matter what the decision, however, Canada will continue to produce gold coins in limited quantities for collectors. For example, this fall the mint will distribute a \$100 gold coin with a "national unity design," featuring 12 Canadian geese flying in formation.

AN ALMOST complete collection of United States dollars minted since 1878 is on view this month in the Oak Lawn Public Library, thanks to some hard-working members of the Oak Lawn Coin Club.

"The only one we're missing is the 1895 Philadelphia mint," said a club member who helped to set up the exhibit. That silver dollar, the key date of the Morgan series, sells for more than \$8,000 in proof.

Club members plan to change the display each month through next June. U.S. trade dollars minted from 1873 to 1883 for circulation in the Orient will be shown next month.